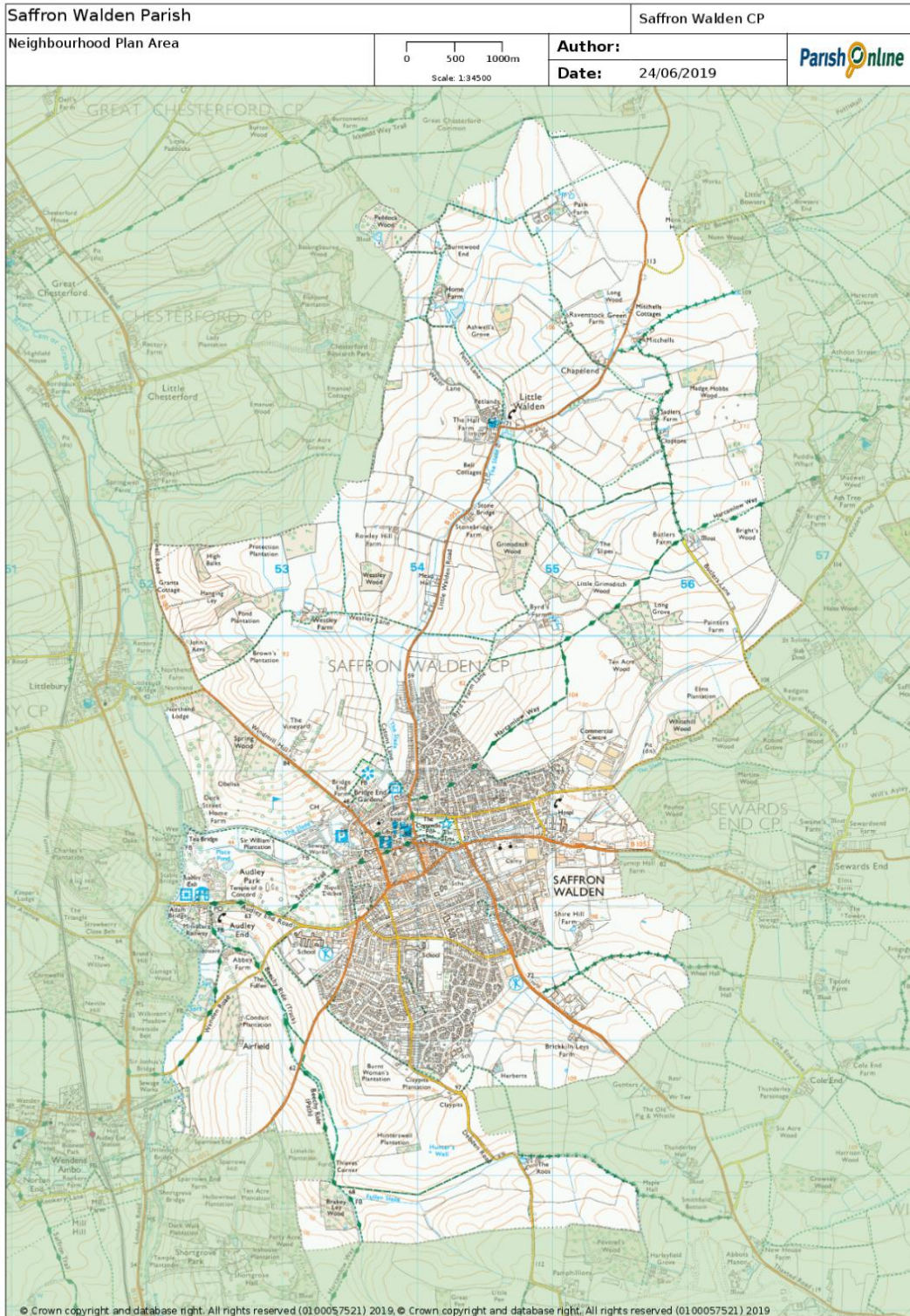


Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

The Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan area



Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain. According to the Regulations, a Consultation Statement:

- Contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Explains how they were consulted;
- Summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- Describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

This document provides a record of the engagement that took place at the various stages of the plan's evolution, the main methods used to publicise the consultation and engagement process are documented, along with the main findings from the engagement.

The SWNP steering Group went to great lengths to be inclusive and open in the preparation of the SWNP and to ensure that the wider community was kept involved and informed of what was being proposed. The plan took any years to come together and over the years many members of the community had opportunities to participate in and contribute to meetings.

The Neighbourhood Plan area was formally established in 2012.

Public Consultations

Initial consultations - 2016

- Questionnaire and leaflet delivered to every business and household in the parish in 2016. 400 replies received. The survey was also online via Survey Monkey.
- Two consultation events on 16th July and 3rd September 2016 when the Neighbourhood Plan team took a stall on King Street Market from 10am to 4pm on each day. We had two gazebos and had boards produced to explain the neighbourhood planning process. Press releases were sent out in support of these events

Secondary round of consultations – draft policies and asking questions - 2017

- Walden Plan exhibition and consultation at Town Hall (physical version of Spring/Summer Online Survey) 5/6/7 May 2017
- Walden Plan exhibition and consultation at Town Hall (physical version of Spring/Summer Online Survey) Armed Forces Day June 2017

Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

- Exhibition and consultation event at the “8 Day Weekend” on the Common in July 2017
- The Spring/Summer Online Survey completed in 2017 in conjunction with the exhibitions received 266 responses
- Leaflet drop bundled with Walden Local newspaper
- Public consultation events were publicised via articles in the local press (The Walden Local, Saffron Walden Reporter and Saffron Walden Flyer), on Facebook and via the Town Council webpage.
- Articles have been published in the local press.

Initial Draft Consultation 2019

- Walden Plan exhibition and consultation at Town Hall for two days Friday and Saturday (market day)
- Advertised in the press and on Facebook and with leaflets in the town during the event
- Clubs and societies invited to early opening / Saturday breakfast
- Draft policies posted up on boards and residents encouraged to write up comments
- Draft policies sent to statutory consultees and clubs and societies for comment and feedback

Focus Groups

Focus groups were arranged by invitation to local professionals in their field, with the invitees being encouraged to bring colleagues in order to widen the debate as far as possible.

Arts and Heritage Focus Group meeting 22.11.2016.

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Isabella Warren SWNP Team Lead for Arts and Heritage and Chair of Saffron Walden Arts Trust, Tony Watson SW Museum Society Ltd, David Kenny Resident and member of Historic England, Edward Gildea Chair of Saffron Walden Theatre Company, Gillian Williamson Town Library, Adrian Williamson SW Labour Party, Douglas Kent Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Peter Riding SW initiative, SWNP Coordinator.

Business and Local Economy Focus Group meeting 16.11.2016

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Keith Eden SWNP Team Lead for Business and Local Economy, Cllr Sam Goddard SWNP Team Member, Neil Gregory SW Town Team, Brien Walker Snow-Walker, Jake Piper Tea Amo, Kim Blake Tea Amo, SWNP Coordinator.

Letter from Saffron Walden Churches Together

On behalf of all churches in Saffron Walden

Education Focus Group meeting 26.10.2016

Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Sharon Morris SWNP Team Lead for Education, Deirdre Hickey Scouting Saffron Walden, Kevin Nicholas Scouting Saffron Walden, Jackie Damary Homan Guider and Primary School Teacher in Saffron Walden, Jo Cooper (on behalf of Emma Vincent Head Teacher) RAB Primary Education, SWNP Coordinator.

Green Infrastructure Focus Group meeting 01.11.2016

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Cllr Sam Goddard SWNP Team Lead for Green Infrastructure, Cllr Paul Gadd SWNP Team and GI Team Member, Coby Richardson SWNP Volunteer and GI Team Member, Tom White Audley End Estate and SWNP Volunteer and GI Team Member, Bob Eastham GI Team Member, Tony Morton Essex Wildlife Trust and GI Team Member, Trilby Roberts Uttlesford Green Party, Clare Yerbury Friends Meeting House, Chris Shannon Resident, Edward Gildea Resident, Mary Flint Resident, Martin Everett Resident, SWNP Coordinator

Health Focus Group meeting 18.10.2016

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Cathy Cowley GP Crocus Surgery, Coby Richardson SWNP Team Member, Adrian Williamson Saffron Walden Labour Party, David Goldspink Uttlesford CAB, SWNP Coordinator.

Housing Planning and Design Focus Group meeting 20.10.2016

Attended by: Cllr Mike Hibbs SWNP Team Chair, Stephen Rapkin Team Lead Housing Planning and Design, Annie Camp Local Resident, Edward Gildea Local Resident, Jackie Damary Homan Local Resident, Stephen Paris Local Resident, Stephen Pettit Local Resident, Linda Spashett Local Resident, Brien Walker Snow-Walker, Richard Westbrook Local Resident, John Westwedge Local resident, Lisa Courtney Town Clerk SW Town Council.

Research from Sports Groups 2018 and 2019

Communication Generally

- Newspaper articles and press release inviting people to get involved and pointing to the website.
- Information held on SWTC website being copies of minutes and details of events / activities
- Information and leaflets held in the Tourist Information Centre for those unable to access the internet.
- Leaflets also given to shops and cafes in town and to community groups
- Three presentations to the Business Breakfast Club.
- Attendance at the Town Team Coffee mornings to provide updates on Neighbourhood Plan progress
- Informal and impromptu feedback received from members of the public (the lengthy timescale allowed for several years' worth of residents' communications and concerns to be heard and incorporated into the plan)

Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement

- Updates and reports provided to the Full Council.

Presentation of Final Draft of Policies

The final draft, with all policies was presented to the Full Council at the Full Council meeting of October 14th 2019. This was a normal agenda item and was open to the public. Council approved the policies for Regulation 14 Consultation stage.

Regulation 14

- Statutory consultees and clubs and societies informed of consultation
- Interactive website online
- Paper copies of the plan available at the Town council, the Library, the Leisure Centre and the Tourist Information Centre for those who do not have access to the website
- Advertised in the Local Press at the start of the consultation and towards the end with a “one week to go” advert
- Promoted on Facebook